

from state labor negotiations to emergency assistance during natural disasters. Peg then went on to manage labor relations for 6 years at the University of Connecticut Health Center. She retired in 1996 after once again winning a seat on the New London City Council, an office she continues to hold today.

Peg Curtin's public service is not limited to her official duties. She has been involved in numerous charitable causes. There are far too many for me to list here on the floor, but I will just mention a few: the Connecticut Special Olympics, the American Red Cross, and the March of Dimes. It is only fitting that at tonight's celebration of Peg's birthday, the proceeds for the events will benefit two of the causes about which Peg cares so deeply—the New London Youth Organization and the New London Parks Conservancy.

We in Connecticut are lucky to have Peg Curtin working on our behalf. There is no doubt in my mind that our State is a better place today because of her efforts. I am privileged to call her my friend, and I truly admire her commitment to service, charity, and community. It is my pleasure to wish Peg a very happy birthday, and to send her my best wishes for many, many more wonderful years.●

WALTER S. SMITH, JR., CHIEF
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

● Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Chief Judge Walter S. Smith, Jr., of the Western District of Texas. Judge Smith has dedicated his life to public service and justice, and I am pleased to commend him on his 20th anniversary on the Federal bench.

Judge Smith was born on October 25, 1940, to Dr. Walter S. Smith and Mary Elizabeth Smith. He grew up in the central Texas town of Marlin. He attended Baylor University where he received his bachelor of arts and his juris doctorate. While in law school, Judge Smith was editor of the law review and served as president of the Phi Delta Phi law fraternity.

Judge Smith began his legal career in private practice in Waco, TX. In 1979, he was appointed by Gov. Bill Clements to the 54th Judicial District Court of McLennan County. Shortly thereafter, Judge Smith was appointed U.S. Magistrate Judge for the Western District of Texas.

In 1984, Senator John Tower recommended Judge Smith for an appointment to the Federal bench. President Ronald Reagan nominated him for the position and he received a unanimous Senate confirmation on October 4, 1984. Judge Smith was sworn into office on October 6, 1984, and has served since then as the first and only resident United States District Judge in the Waco Division. Judge Smith was elevated to the position of chief Judge of the Western District of Texas on June 1, 2003, a position he continues to hold.

During his legal career, Judge Smith has remained a member of the Texas

Bar Association, the Texas Bar Foundation, the McLennan County Bar Association, and the American Judicature Society.

In addition to being admitted to practice in the State of Texas, Judge Smith was also admitted to practice in Federal district courts for the Western District of Texas, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the United States Supreme Court. Judge Smith is particularly proud of his participation in the formation of the Abner V. McCall American Inns of Court, for which he served as the first president.

During his years on the Federal bench, Judge Smith has traveled throughout the Western and other Districts of Texas. In addition to Waco, he has held court in Austin, San Antonio, Pecos, El Paso, Midland, Laredo, Corpus Christi and Fort Worth.

Judge Smith is married to the former Brenda Derting. They have two daughters, five granddaughters, and two grandsons. He is an ordained elder in the First Presbyterian Church and has been actively involved in church activities and community service.

During his career, Judge Smith has demonstrated the dedication and patience we seek on our judges. He is respected for his fairness and commitment to justice. Judge Smith has been asked to make rulings on many difficult cases throughout the years and has risen to the many challenges with poise and dignity. His knowledge of the law and experience make him a great judge. His dedication to his community and to the rule of law make him a remarkable public servant. I thank him for his 20 years on the Federal bench in the Western District of Texas.●

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was ordered referred as indicated:

H.R. 3428. An Act to designate a portion of the United States courthouse located at 2100 Jamieson Avenue, in Alexandria, Virginia, as the "Justin W. Williams United States Attorney's Building"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works by unanimous consent.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

H.R. 1084. An act to provide liability protection to nonprofit volunteer pilot organizations flying for public benefit and to the pilots and staff of such organizations.

H.R. 1787. An act to remove civil liability barriers that discourage the donation of fire equipment to volunteer fire companies.

S. 2852. A bill to provide assistance to Special Olympics to support expansion of Special Olympics and development of education programs and a Healthy Athletes Program, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with

accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-9450. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Allethrin, Bendiocarb, Burkholderia cepacia, Fendidazon potassium, and Molinate; Tolerance Actions" (FRL#7679-7) received on September 28, 2004; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-9451. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fenamidone; Pesticide Tolerance" (FRL#7681-3) received on September 28, 2004; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-9452. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fludioxonil; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL#7682-3) received on September 28, 2004; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-9453. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Methoxyfenozide; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL#7681-6) received on September 28, 2004; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-9454. A communication from the Principal Deputy for Personnel and Readiness, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the approval of wearing the insignia of the grade of rear admiral; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-9455. A communication from the Assistant Director, Executive and Political Personnel, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination confirmed for the position of Assistant Secretary of the Army for Financial Management, received on September 28, 2004; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-9456. A communication from the Assistant Director, Executive and Political Personnel, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a designation of acting officer and nomination for the position of Assistant Secretary of the Army for Financial Management, Department of Defense, received on September 28, 2004; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-9457. A communication from the Assistant Director, Executive and Political Personnel, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a discontinuation of service in acting role for the position of Assistant Secretary of the Army for Financial Management, Department of Defense, received on September 28, 2004; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-9458. A communication from the Assistant Director, Executive and Political Personnel, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy and designation of acting officer for the position of Assistant Secretary of the Army for Financial Management, Department of Defense, received on September 28, 2004; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-9459. A communication from the Assistant Director, Executive and Political Personnel, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a designation of acting officer for the position of Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations and Environment, Department of Defense, received on September 28, 2004; to the Committee on Armed Services.